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PLANT LAGS IN OUTPUT OF CRITICAL ITEMS; MINISTRY HONORS OTHER ENTERPRISES

FOUNDRY POORLY ORGANIZED, NEEDS NEW EQUIPMENT -- Moscow, Moskovskaya Pravda, 14 Feb 51

The 1950 production and management record of the Moscow Plant imeni Malenkov of the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building shows that its directors and party leaders have fallen down on their jobs. Production of steam traps and valves for liquid and steam systems, including rotary valves, was below plan, a shortcoming made more serious by the fact that these items are in great demand. Gross production fell short 6.6 percent, and loss of nearly two million rubles was sustained. Production records of individual workers are below par.

The poor performance of the plant was a surprise neither to the ministry nor to Glavarmalit (Main Administration of Industrial Accessories), both of which had remarked on the uneven production rate and high percentage of rejects as early as February - March 1950. The production interruptions occurring at the plant in the first half of that year were due to no external causes, but rather to a low technological level and indifference to Stakhanovite methods.

Less than a year ago, the plant director, Makarov, and the chief engineer, Minkevich, took some measures toward improving the situation, but did not succeed in effecting the required basic changes.

Take the case of the foundry, which occupies a key position in the plant production complex. Its quota for production of cast-iron fittings was increased 44 percent for this year. Before this quota can be met, molding processes must be mechanized and a conveyer set up. The directors have drawn up a plan for reorganizing the foundry, but have failed to implement it. Only a few pneumatic molding machines were installed, and the parts for the conveyer were brought in and relegated to an out-of-the-way corner.

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Not until 2 months ago, when it became abundantly clear that the foundry was holding up fulfillment of the over-all production plan, did the directors order the conveyer to be assembled and set up. This order is being carried out very slowly, at best. So far, the rails have been laid out, the cars and rollers moved to another place, and the traction station set up. The technical department has not yet figured out the number and types of fittings required for completion of the assembly.

Once the conveyer is in operation, four or five times as much molding sand will be needed. This poses a considerable problem, for the management has not set aside enough molding material even for present needs, and there is also a shortage of sand-conditioning machines and core-drying ovens. Unconditioned sand and clay are now being used, a procedure which is contributing heavily to the percentage of rejects.

Existing bed plates are not suitable for mounting the new pneumatic machines. The shortage of compressors for feeding the pneumatic machines is so acute that the founders were idle during the daytime throughout all of January. Two overhead traveling cranes in the foundry are so badly worn and poorly held together that they are more often idle than operating.

The plant suffers from many shortcomings in management. One of the gravest is the unsatisfactory application of norms. Calculated technical norms were drawn up for hundreds of basic operations, but they were not put in effect. On the other hand, an accounting of empirical statistical norms showed that they were fulfilled 178 percent, although the production per worker, measured in rubles, is far below the plan.

A number of shops do not observe the most elementary principles of the division of production processes. In the foundry, steel and iron casting is carried out at the same time. Sufficient efforts are not being made to utilize fully existing machinery. Machine tools of the plant were idle nearly 700 hours during December. Plans arrive at the shops late. The criterion for norm fulfillment is tonnage rather than range of products. The production-planning department does not set limits on materials or cost of products.

Under such conditions shop chiefs work blindfolded, not knowing what is expected of them. The chief of the fittings shop, for example, is unable to tell the cost of this or that product, or what the average output of his machinists is.

The Kovalev system of study and dissemination of Stakhanovite working methods is half-heartedly being applied, if at all. For example, time studies were made of several machinists in the fittings shop, but no descriptions of their methods were written up, and the time studies, once completed, were simply filed away.

Not one section of the plant has earned either the Stakhanovite rating or the excellent production rating. The achievements of leading workers are not popularized, and the honor roll, its photographs yellowed with age, has not been changed since the summer of 1950.

AWARD BANNERS, PRIZES -- Moscow, Trud, 10 Feb 51

For achievements in the all-union socialist competition of the fourth quarter of 1950, five plants of the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building were awarded honors. The Shchelkovo Small Hydroturbines Plant retained the Transferable Red Banner of the Council of Ministers USSR, and won a first prize. The Moscow Computing- and Analyzing-Machine Plant received the Transferable Red Banner of

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the Council of Ministers USSR, and a first prize. Both the Kuntsevo Platinum Needle Plant imeni KIM, and the Kolomna Textile-Machine-Building Plant retained the Transferable Red Banner of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions and of the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building, and won first prizes. The Moscow Pump Plant imeni Kalinin was presented the Transferable Red Banner of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions and of the Ministry of Machine and Instrument Building.

Plants of the Ministry of Transport-Machine Building were also honored. The Leningrad Kirov Plant, the Turbomotor, and other plants, were awarded the Transferable Red Banner of the Council of Ministers USSR, and first prizes. The Moscow and the Yaroslavl' Brake Plants received the Transferable Red Banner of the All-Union Council of Trade Unions, and of the Ministry of Transport-Machine Building, as well as first prizes.

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